

1. A hot melt adhesive system comprising:  
a melting unit configured to liquify a bulk form of hot melt adhesive, and deliver the liquified hot melt adhesive to an application location, said melting unit including a controller for establishing and/or verifying at least  
5 one system condition, and  
a machine reading unit coupled with said controller, said machine reading unit capable of receiving information from a machine readable element and communicating the information to said controller for use in establishing and/or verifying said system condition.
2. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said machine reading unit further comprises a bar code reader.
3. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said machine reading unit further comprises a magnetic strip reader.
4. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said machine reading unit further comprises an RF reader.
5. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said system condition comprises an application temperature of the hot melt adhesive.
6. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said system condition comprises an over-temperature condition of the hot melt adhesive.

7. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said system condition comprises a set-back temperature condition of the hot melt adhesive.

8. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said system condition comprises a warning associated with an operation of the system.

9. The hot melt adhesive system of claim 1, wherein said system condition comprises a flushing operation of the system.

10. A method of operating a hot melt adhesive system having a controller operating a melting unit, comprising:
- wirelessly receiving information on at least one system condition into the controller from a machine readable element, and
- 5 using the scanned information during operation of the melting unit.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein using the scanned information further comprises:
- setting an application temperature of the hot melt adhesive.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein using the scanned information further comprises:
- setting an over-temperature condition of the hot melt adhesive.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein using the scanned information further comprises:
- establishing and/or verifying a set-back temperature of the hot melt adhesive.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein using the scanned information further comprises:
- setting a warning condition in the controller.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein using the scanned information further comprises:  
setting a system flushing condition in the controller.
16. The method of claim 10, wherein scanning information further comprises:  
scanning information identifying the hot melt adhesive processed in the melter unit.
17. The method of claim 10, wherein using the scanned information further comprises:  
determining an amount of the hot melt adhesive processed in the melter unit.
18. The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
logging the scanned information into a database.
19. The method of claim 10, wherein scanning information further comprises:  
scanning information located on a container of the hot melt adhesive.
20. The method of claim 10, wherein scanning information further comprises:  
reading the information from a magnetic element.

21. The method of claim 10, wherein scanning information further comprises:

reading the information from a bar code.

22. The method of claim 10, wherein scanning information further comprises:

reading the information from an RF transponder.

23. A method of operating a hot melt adhesive dispensing system comprising:
- receiving information from a machine readable element regarding a hot melt adhesive to be dispensed,
  - utilizing the received information to set a system condition of the hot melt adhesive dispensing system, and
  - 5 operating the hot melt adhesive dispensing system according to the system condition to dispense the hot melt adhesive.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein the information is received from a container of the hot melt adhesive.
25. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
- optically receiving the information from the machine readable element.
26. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
- magnetically receiving the information from the machine readable element.
27. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
- electronically receiving the information from the machine readable element.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:  
receiving the information through a radio signal.
29. The method of claim 23, further comprising:  
receiving the information from an electronic chip.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein said electronic chip is carried on  
a container of the hot melt adhesive.
31. The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
receiving the information from the electronic chip with a portable  
machine reading unit.
32. The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
receiving the information from the electronic chip automatically  
when the container of hot melt adhesive comes within proximity to the hot melt  
adhesive system.

33. A container of hot melt adhesive for supplying adhesive to a hot melt adhesive dispensing system, said container having a machine readable element affixed thereto, said machine readable element carrying information for establishing and/or verifying at least one condition for operating the hot melt
- 5 adhesive system.